

Sub EJ
com⁸
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9
10 said first conditions are effective to produce a precursor polymer dispersion
11 comprising particles of said water-soluble polymer at a level of prehydration;
12 wherein, upon addition of a sufficient quantity of said precursor polymer dispersion
13 to a final brine comprising an aqueous solution of a second salt at a final
14 density, said precursor polymer dispersion produces a final polymer dispersion
15 comprising a second concentration comprising final particles of said water-
16 soluble polymer at a final level of hydration, said second concentration and
17 said final level of hydration being effective at downhole conditions to maintain
 an effective level of a property of said final brine selected from the group
 consisting of rheology, fluid loss control, and a combination thereof.

Sub EJ
26. (Twice amended) A precursor polymer dispersion comprising:

2 an aqueous solution of a first salt at a first density, said first salt comprising cations consisting
3 essentially of cations of one or more multivalent alkaline earth metals; and
4 a first concentration of particles of a water-soluble polymer at a level of prehydration;
5 wherein, upon addition of a sufficient quantity of said precursor polymer dispersion to a final
6 brine comprising an aqueous solution of a second salt at a final density, said precursor
7 polymer dispersion produces a final polymer dispersion comprising a second
8 concentration comprising final particles of said water-soluble polymer at a final level
9 of hydration, said second concentration and said final level of hydration being
10 effective at downhole conditions to maintain an effective level of a property of said

11 final brine selected from the group consisting of rheology, fluid loss control, and a
12 combination thereof.

Subj 2

42. (Twice Amended) A method for producing a brine for use in drilling and
2 completion operations comprising:
3 providing a precursor brine comprising an aqueous solution of a first salt at a first
4 density, said first salt comprising cations consisting essentially of cations of
5 one or more multivalent alkaline earth metals; and
6 mixing a water-soluble polymer with said precursor brine at a first concentration and
7 under first conditions, wherein said first density, said first concentration, and
8 said first conditions are effective to produce a precursor polymer dispersion
9 comprising particles of said water-soluble polymer at a level of prehydration;
10 wherein, upon addition of a sufficient quantity of said precursor polymer dispersion
11 to a final brine comprising an aqueous solution of a second salt at a final
12 density, said precursor polymer dispersion produces a final polymer dispersion
13 comprising a second concentration comprising final particles of said water-
14 soluble polymer at a final level of hydration, said second concentration and
15 said final level of hydration being effective at downhole conditions to maintain
16 an effective level of a property of said final brine selected from the group
17 consisting of rheology, fluid loss control, and a combination thereof; and
18 mixing said sufficient quantity of said precursor polymer dispersion with said final
19 brine.

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57. (Twice amended) A precursor polymer dispersion comprising:
2 a precursor brine comprising an aqueous solution of a first salt at first density; said
3 first salt comprising cations consisting essentially of cations of one or more
4 multivalent alkaline earth metals;
5 a precursor polymer dispersion in said precursor brine comprising a first
6 concentration of particles of a water-soluble polymer at a level of
7 prehydration;
8 wherein, upon mixing of a sufficient quantity of said precursor polymer dispersion
9 with a final brine comprising an aqueous solution of a second salt at a final
10 density, said precursor polymer dispersion produces a second concentration
11 of final particles of said water-soluble polymer at a final level of hydration,
12 said second concentration and said final level of hydration being effective at
13 downhole conditions to maintain an effective level of a property of said final
14 brine selected from the group consisting of rheology, fluid loss control, and
a combination thereof.

REMARKS

Obviousness Rejections

The examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 30-37, 38-41, 42-51, 52-64 and 65 as obvious over DD v. Mondshine v. House.